

## Message Text

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17

ACTION ARA-10

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R 051631Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2087

AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

UNCLAS BOGOTA 2868

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD CO

SUBJ: REDUCTION OF IMPORT DUTIES

1. GOC BY DECREE NO 515 OF MARCH 28, 74 ISSUED BY MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PUBLIC CREDIT CHANGED (MOSTLY REDUCED) IMPORT DUTIES ON 2,338 ITEMS OF COLOMBIAN TARIFF SCHEDULE (ABOUT 50 PER CENT OF TOTAL TARIFF ITEMS). REDUCTION AFFECTS A WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS INCLUDING ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE FATS AND OILS; PREPARED FOODSTUFFS; MINERAL PRODUCTS; MINERAL FUELS; MINERAL OILS AND PRODUCTS OF ITS DESTILLATION; ORGANIC CHEMICALS; HYDROCARBONS AND THEIR HALOGENATED, SULPHONATED, NITRATED OR NITROSATED DERIVATIVES; MICROBIAL VACCINES, FOR HUMAN AND ANIMAL USE; FERTILIZERS; TANNING AND DYEING EXTRACTS; ARTIFICIAL WAXES; DENTAL WAXES; CASEIN, CASEINATES AND OTHER CASEIN DERIVATIVES; STARCH GLUES; PHOTOGRAPHIC AND CINEMATOGRAPHIC GOODS; MISCELLANEOUS CHEMICAL PRODUCTS; ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS; SYNTHETIC RUBBER AND ARTICLES THEREOF; RAW HIDES AND SKINS; LEATHER MANUFACTURES; FURSKINS AND ARTIFICIAL FUR; WOOD AND WOOD ARTICLES; PAPERS AND PAPERBOARDS; BOOKS; PEARLS, PRECIOUS AND SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES; IRON AND STEEL AND ARTICLES THEREOF; COPPER AND ARTICLES THEREOF; NICKEL, ALUMINUM AND ARTICLES THEREOF; OTHER METALS; AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS; INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY; MOTORS; SPARE PARTS FOR AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLES; AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLES; TRACTORS; FORK LIFT TRUCKS; PARTS AND ACCESSORIES FOR AIRPLANES; SHIPS; LABORATORY EQUIPMENT; DIFFERENT TYPES OF CLOCKS; PHONOGRAPHS, RECORD PLAYERS;

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RECORDERS; SPORT GOODS; AND SOME LUXURY ITEMS.

2. PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED MOTIVIES FOR REDUCING TARIFFS ARE TO COMBAT INFLATION (BY REDUCING THE COST OF LOCALLY PRODUCED GOODS WHICH DEPEND ON IMPORTED RAW MATERIALS AND CAPITAL GOODS) AND TO UTILIZE ADDITIONAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RECEIPTS. OTHER, UNSTATED REASONS ARE TO REDUCE SMUGGLING THAT RESULTED FROM HIGH TARIFFS, AND BY REDUCING TARIFF PROTECTION TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND QUALITY OF LOCAL PRODUCTION.

3. LARGEST PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS WERE MADE ON THE FOL PRODUCTS: SPECIAL PRODUCTS OF THE MILLING INDUUTRY, SUCH AS MALT AND STARCHES, GLUTEN AND INULIN; PREPARED MEAT, FISH AND SHELLFISH FOODSTUFFS; CHEMICAL PRODUCTS; FERTILIZERS; TANNING AND DYEING EXTRACTS; PLASTIC MATERIALS; POLYESTER RESINS; POLETHYLENE; POLYVINYL CHLORIDE; SYNTHETIC RUBBER; TRACTOR TIRES; INNER TUBES; PAPER AND PAPERBOARD; BOOKS; HATS; WIGS; GLASSWARE; FEATHERS AND PARTS OF FEATHERS; IRON AND STEEL; KITCHEN WARE; MOTORS; ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY; TRACTORS; FORK LIFT TRUCKS; SPARE PARTS FOR AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLES; PARTS AND ACCESSORIES FOR AIRPLANES; SHIPS; INDUSTRIAL AND ANALITICAL INSTRUMENTATION; AND SPORTING GOODS.

4. BEST PROSPECTS FOR INCREASED US EXPORTS ARE THOSE PRODUCTS LISTED IN PARA 3 ABOVE. HOWEVER A LARGE PROPORTION OF THE PRODUCTS ON WHICH TARIFFS WERE REDUCED ARE ON THE PRIOR IMPORT LICENSE LIST WHICH MEANS THAT IMPORTS ARE STILL SUBJECT TO GOVT'S CONTROL.

5. COMPLETE DECREE IS BEING POUCHED DIRECTLY TO COMMERCE DESK OFFICER. VAKY

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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